INSANITY

AMONG THE

COLOURED POPULATION

OF THE

FREE STATES.

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THE statistics of insanity are becoming more and more an object of interest to philanthropists, to political economists, and to men of science. Very many men in various parts of our country, and indeed in every civilized nation, have entered in this investigation, and their labours have developed the unwelcome fact, that mental derangement is among the most common of all grave diseases that flesh is heir to. But all investigations, conducted by individuals or by associations, have been partial, incomplete, and far from satisfactory. They failed especially of obtaining accurately the basis of their calculation. They could not tell the numbers of any class or people, among whom they found a definite number of the insane. And therefore, as a ground of comparison of the prevalence of insanity in one country with that of another, or in one class or race of people with that in another, their reports did not answer their intended purpose. In some states the medical societies undertook this work of ascertaining the number of lunatics within their borders. In others, committees of the legislatures were appointed to obtain this information, or associations of philanthropists privately made inquiry. But all were almost necessarily imperfect. If the survey were intended to cover any considerable extent of country or large body of people, it required the active co-operation of many individuals, who were scattered through every district, and familiar with the domestic conditions of every class, or who could have access to every family. Medical societies, which are supposed to have in each neighbourhood one of its members, who is intimate in every house, certainly have the best opportunities of obtaining this knowledge, but they cannot compel every member to make the desired report. Their investigations, therefore, rather reach to scattered points than cover over measured and definite surfaces of country. For a stronger reason,

legislative committees and individuals have failed, because they had not any extended and connected corps of coadjutors, whose aid they could claim. Hence, with the exception of the returns of the insane poor in some of the states, we had no complete and accurate account of the number of these unfortunate sufferers in any country, or race, or class of people. The writers upon insanity, both in Europe and in America, have been confined to the data offered by these partial investigations, when they have spoken of the prevalence of the disorder. These authors have therefore differed very widely, not only in different countries, but among each other in the same country, and all for the want of an established and acknowledged basis of calculation.

It was necessary, for perfect truth in this matter, to know exactly the number of people, in any district or class, in which should be found any definite numbers of lunatics. The instructions given to the marshals at the last decennial enumeration of the people of the United States offered all that was desired. These were directed to ascertain, each in his own district, the number of white and coloured people respectively, and also the number of white and coloured lunatics and idiots. They were also directed to learn and record how many of these were supported by their own estates or by their friends, and how many were supported by the public.* As these functionaries were ordered to inquire from house to house, and leave no dwelling—neither mansion nor cabin—neither tent nor ship unvisited and unexamined, it was reasonably supposed that here would be a complete and accurate account of the prevalence of insanity among seventeen millions of people. A wider field than this had never been surveyed for this purpose in any part of the earth, since the world began. It was supposed, also, that this would show the comparative frequency of this disorder, among the white and the coloured races. Never had the philanthropist a better promise of truth hitherto undiscovered. All who were interested in this matter, waited anxiously for the publication of the sixth census, which came forth in large folio volumes, "corrected at the Department of State." Many proceeded at once to analyze the tables, in order to show the proportion of lunacy in the various states, and among the two races, which constitute our population.

The following tables include the number of white and coloured people, as

* "The said enumeration shall further distinguish the number of those free white persons included in such enumeration, who are deaf and dumb, under the age of fourteen years; and those of the age of fourteen years and under twenty-five; and of the age of twenty-five and upwards: and shall further distinguish the number of those free white persons included in such enumeration who are blind; and also in like manner of those who are insane or idiots, distinguishing further such of the insane and idiots as are a public charge."

"The said enumeration shall further distinguish the number of those free coloured and other coloured persons, included in the foregoing, who are deaf and dumb, without regard to age, and those who are blind, and also in like manner of those who are insane and idiots, distinguishing further such of the insane and idiots as are a public charge."—*From the act to provide for taking the sixth census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States, sec.* 1.

found in the summaries at the end of the tables for each state. The proportions in the third and sixth columns of figures are obtained by dividing the figures of the first column by those in the second.

TABLE I.

Northern States.

State or Territory.	White Population.	Number of Insane.	One in	Coloured Population	Number of Insane.	One in
Maine	500,438	537	950.5	1355	94	14
New Hampshire	284,036	486	584	538	19	28
Vermont	291,218	398	734	730	13	56
Massachusetts	729,030	1071	680	8669	200	43.5
Rhode Island	105,587	203	520	3243	13	249
Connecticut	301,856	498	606	8159	44	185
New York	2,378,890	2146	1108	50,031	194	257
New Jersey	351,588	369	950	21,718	73	297
Pennsylvania	1,676,115	1946	851.7	47,918	187	256
Ohio	1,502,122	1195	1257	17,345	165	105
Indiana	678,698	487	1393	7168	75	95
Illinois	472,254	213	2217	3929	79	49
Michigan	211,560	39	5423	707	26	27
Wisconsin	30,749	8	4383	196	3	65
Iowa	42,924	7	6132	188	4	47
Northern States	9,557,065	9603	995	171,894	1189	144.5

TABLE II.

Southern States.

State or Territory.	White Population.	Number of Insane.	One in	Coloured Population.	Number of Insane.	One in
Delaware	58,531	52	1126	19,524	28	697
Maryland	317,717	387	818	151,515	141	1074
Virginia	740,968	1053	717	498,829	381	1309
North Carolina	484,870	580	834	268,549	221	1215
South Carolina	259,084	376	680	335,314	137	2447
Georgia	407,695	294	1386	283,697	134	2117
Alabama	335,185	232	1444	255,571	125	2044
Louisiana	158,457	55	2080	193,954	45	4310
Mississippi	179,074	116	154	196,577	82	2397
Tennessee	640,627	699	917	188,583	152	1240
Kentucky	590,253	795	742	189,575	180	1053
Missouri	323,888	202	1603	59,814	68	879
Arkansas	77,174	45	1715	20,400	21	971
Florida	27,943	10	2794	26,534	12	2211
Dist. Columbia	30,657	4	1816	13,055	7	1866
Southern States	4,632.153	4900	945.3	2,701,491	1734	1557.9

TABLE III.

Comparison of the Free and the Slave States.

	White Population.	Number of Insane	One in	Coloured Population.	Number of Insane.	One in
Northern States	9,557,065	9693	995	171,894	1191	144.5
Southern States	4,632,153	4900	945.3	2,701,491	1734	1557.9
Total	14,189,218	14,503	978	2,873,385	2925	982.

TABLE IV.

Summary of the whole United States.

Population, 17,062,603	Number of Insane, 17,428	One in 979

This analysis attracted much attention, and great pains were taken to spread it before the whole country. It was printed in some of the medical journals, in several of the lunatic hospital reports, and in other channels of information. Here were facts strange and astounding, but which coming from high official authority, could not be resisted so long as we put our faith in the document, the printed volume of the sixth census. The most unexpected development was that of the vast disproportion of insanity in the coloured population of the free and of the slave states. It was here shown that the negroes and mulattoes of the north produced one lunatic or idiot for every one hundred and forty-four persons, while the same class at the south produced only one lunatic or idiot for every fifteen hundred and fifty-eight. Lunacy was therefore about eleven times as frequent for the African in freedom as in slavery. More strange than this, it was shown, that in Maine every fourteenth negro, in Michigan every twenty-seventh, in New Hampshire every twenty-eighth, and in Massachusetts every forty-third negro was insane. While New Jersey, which seemed to be the least destructive to the mental health of the coloured population, having only one lunatic in every two hundred and ninety-seven of those people, presented more than double the proportionate number of insane blacks of that which was found in her contiguous neighbour, Delaware, which, in this respect, was the least favoured of the states south of Mason and Dixson's line. This was so improbable, so contrary to common experience, there was in it such strong *primâ facie* evidence of error, that nothing but a document, coming forth with all the authority of the national government, and "corrected in the department of state," could have gained for it the least credence among the inhabitants of the free states, where insanity was stated to abound so plentifully.

This seemed to present a new feature among the causes of mental disorder, and led many to investigate the effects of slavery and freedom upon soundness of mind. The facts were published in detail in the Medical Journal, of Boston; in the Southern Literary Messenger, of Richmond, Va., for June, 1843; in Hunt's Merchant's Magazine, of New York, for May, 1843; in Dr. Stribbling's Report of the Western Lunatic Asylum, of Virginia, and in several of the newspapers of this country. The same has been republished in Europe. Throughout the civilized world, the statement has gone forth, that, according to the experience of the United States, including a slave population of near two and a half millions, and a free coloured population in the northern States of near two hundred thousand, slavery is more than ten-fold more favourable to mental health than freedom. The writer in the Southern Messenger, founds a long and apparently satisfactory

argument upon these data—and the slaves are consoled with the assurance, that although another man's will governs them, yet their minds are not bound with insane delusions, nor crushed in idiocy, as are those of their brethren, who govern themselves. This certainly appeared to be a matter of just consideration, with the philanthropist, who wished the early emancipation of the slave. It is offered by the Southern Messenger as a new reason for conservatism of the peculiar institutions of the south, and this apparent exemption of the slave from one of the most terrible disorders that has visited humanity, and the ten-fold liability of the free black to the same, may become not only a fundamental principle in medical science, but also one of the elementary principles in political economy.

Without attempting to refute any of the arguments or deductions that have been or may be drawn from the nosological statements in the tables of the census, or to overturn any theories that may be offered for their explanation, it is sufficient to strike at the very root of the matter, and show their entire want of truth, and demonstrate that no reliance whatever can be placed on what purport to be facts, respecting the prevalence of insanity among the free negroes, set forth, in that fallacious and self-condemning document, the "sixth census" of the United States.

This census contains, in one set of columns, the number of the whites and the number of blacks in each town, city, county and state of the Union; and in another set of columns are contained the numbers of the white and of the coloured lunatics and idiots, in each of these respective districts and localities. Seeing so great a disproportion of the coloured and the white insane, in the free and the slave states, we were led to go back from the results, the gross sums, which are at the foot of the added columns, and in the summaries at the end of the reports concerning each state, to the details, of which the reports were made up. We compared the whole coloured population of each town individually, with the number of the insane reported as belonging to it, and here we found the secret of the error.

We found that the town of Worcester, in Massachusetts, is stated to contain one hundred and thirty-three coloured lunatics and idiots, supported at public charge. These we know are the white patients in the state hospital, situated in that town. This single mistake multiplies the coloured lunatics of this state three-fold, and if this were corrected, it would reduce the proportion of coloured insane from one in forty-three to one in one hundred and twenty-nine. Warned by this example, we examined the statements respecting every town, city, and county, in all the states and territories, and compared in each one of these, the total coloured population with the number of the coloured insane. These are the results of this examination.

MAINE.

TOWNS.	Total coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane	TOWNS.	Total coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane.
Limerick,	0	4	Industry,	0	3
Lymington,	1	2	Dresden,	3	6
Scarboro,	0	6	Hope,	1	2
Poland,	0	2	Hartland,	0	2
Dixfield,	0	4	Newfield,	0	5
Calais,	0	1			

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Coventry,	0	1	Stratham,	0	1
Haverhill,	1	1	Northampton,	0	1
Holderness,	0	2	New Hampton,	0	1
Atkinson,	0	1	Lyman,	0	1
Bath,	0	1	Littleton,	0	1
Lisbon,	0	1	Henniker,	0	1
Compton,	1	1			

MASSACHUSETTS.

Freetown,	0	2	Georgetown,	1	2
Plympton,	2	4	Carver,	1	1
Leominster,	0	2	Northbridge,	1	1
Wilmington,	0	2	Ashby,	1	1
Sterling,	0	2	Randolph,	1	1
Danvers,	0	2	Worcester,	151*	133

CONNECTICUT.

Waterford,	2	7

VERMONT.

Rushford,	0	1	Lyndon,	1	2
Athens,	2	2	Castleton,	4	2
Barnet,	0	1	Fairhaven,	1	1

NEW YORK.

Conewango,	0	1	Westville,	0	1
Olean,	0	1	French Creek,	0	1
Ellington,	0	5	Carroll,	0	1
Sherman,	0	1	Holland,	0	2
Barne,	10	6	Crown Point,	0	1
Shelby,	1	7	Sandy Creek,	0	1
Providence,†	3	2	Hadley,	0	1
Stockholm,	0	1	Parishville,	0	1
Chester,	0	1	Groton,	0	5
Java,	0	1	Dryden,‡	0	2
Lansing,	8	4	Great Valley,	0	1
Leon,	0	1			

NEW JERSEY.

Stafford,	1	7

* Thirty-six of these are under 10 years of age.
† Providence has also two deaf and dumb negroes.
‡ Dryden has also two blind negroes.

PENNSYLVANIA.

TOWNS.	Total coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane.	TOWNS.	Total coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane.
Colebrookdale,	0	2	Lebœuf,	0	3
Bloomfield,	2	3	Washington, Erie Co.,	0	4
Centre,	4	8	Washington, Indiana Co.,	0	1
Old Codorus,	0	2	Little Beaver,	0	1
West Providence,	6	3	Plum,	8*	5
Armstrong,	0	1	Logan,	0	2
Harios,	3	6	Upper Paxton,	2	2
Jay,	2	2	Oliver, Newport, Bor.,	0	1
Greenwood, Millerstown, Bor.,	0	2			
Ridgebury,	0	1			

OHIO.

Greene, Wayne County,	1	2	Bristol,	0	2
Ellsworth,	0	3	Lordstown,	0	1
Canfield,	1	1	Tuscarawas,	0	1
Venice,	0	1	Salem,	1	1
Thompson,	1	2	Liberty,	0	1
Vernon,	2	2	Bloomfield,	0	1
Porter,	0	1	Greenfield,	0	1
Jefferson, Madison Co.	0	1	Falls,	1	1
Sharon,	0	1	Starr,	0	2
Montgomery,	1	4	Rumley,	0	2
Vermilion,	0	1	Chester,	0	1
Greene, Richland Co.	0	1	Auburn,	0	2
Hanover,	0	1	Newbury,	0	1
Munroe,	0	1	Burton,	1	1
Washington, Preble Co.	0	4	Plain,	0	1
Washington, Pickaway Co.	0	7	Jefferson, Franklin Co.	0	1
Spencer,	1	1	Norwich,	0	1
Jefferson, Richland Co.	0	1	Harrison,	0	3
Canaan,	0	1	Bricksville,	1	1
Sylvania	1	1	Brooklyn,	0	1
Amherst,	0	1	Green, Clarke Co.	1	2
Franklin,	0	1	Lewis,	7	7
			Elk,	0	1
			Alexander,	1	1
			Lenox,	0	1
			Pleasant,	12	8

INDIANA.

Noble,	0	2	Marshall,	1	2
Owen,	0	2	Fulton,	1	1
Marion,	0	1	Bartholomew,	0	1

ILLINOIS.

TOWNS.	COUNTY.	Coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane.	TOWNS.	COUNTY.	Coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane.
Plainfield,	Will,	0	1	Taylor,	Greene,	0	3
	Scott,	4	5	South Richwoods,	"	0	1
	Marshall,	0	1	Township 6 N. 1 E.	Fulton,	0	1
	Livingston,	1	1		De Kalb,	0	2
	Logan,	1	6		Christian,	0	3
	La Salle.	2	1				
Council Hill,	Jo. Davies,	0	1				
Wilmington,	Greene,	0	5				

§ Three of these under 10 years of age.

MICHIGAN.

TOWNS.	Total coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane.	TOWNS.	Total coloured inhabitants.	Coloured insane.
Rensselaer,	0	1	Milton,	0	1
Antrim,	0	1	Wheatland,	0	1
Vernon,	0	1	Penfield,	0	1
Unadilla,	0	1	Athens,	0	1
Rollin,	0	1	Bertrand,	0	1
Sandstone,	1	1	Sheridan,	0	1
Glass Lake,	0	1			

IOWA.

Jefferson Co.	0	2

To those who examine the census in its details, the statement respecting the number of coloured insane in these towns and counties, carries on its very face its own refutation; no one who thus studies the report, can possibly be misled. But these palpable errors are by no means all. There are others almost as gross, and to observers of society almost as self-evident.—In many towns all the coloured population are stated to be insane, in very many others, two-thirds; one half, one-fourth, or one-tenth of this ill-starred race are reported to be thus afflicted, and as if the document delighted to revel in variety of error, every proportion of the negro population from seven-fold its whole number, as we have shown in some towns, to less than a two-thousandth, as is recorded of others, is declared to be lunatic.

How far these errors respecting insanity among the blacks extend beyond those which we have already pointed out, we have no means of ascertaining; but here are enough to destroy all our confidence in the accuracy of the whole. The same carelessness, which gave insanity without subjects in some places, may have given none in others, where it actually existed. It may have called those who supported themselves paupers, and ranked the poor among the class of the self-supporting. Certainly there is ground for suspicion of the former in some instances. The county of Perry, in Pennsylvania, with only one hundred and fifty-four coloured inhabitants, of whom fifty-five are less than ten years old, is said to have twenty-four insane and idiots, and twenty-one of these are stated to maintain themselves. This would indicate not only a prevalence of insanity greater than has been discovered within our observation, but also a degree of prosperity beyond what we have known among the coloured people of the northern or southern states, and even greater than falls to the average lot of the whites in the same county, for two-fifths of the white lunatics in Perry county are maintained at public charge; and throughout the free states, about one-third are supported in the same way. In eighteen counties of New York, the entire coloured insane population, forty-six, are said to support themselves, while more than one-fourth of the white lunatics in the same counties are supported at public charge. In the state of New York seventy-one per cent. of the coloured and only sixty-eight per cent. of the white lunatics are able to maintain themselves.

We have good reason for believing, that the census is in error in regard to the numbers of the white as well as the coloured insane. In every case where we have had an opportunity to compare the statements of that document in regard to this matter, with the results of a more trustworthy investigation and with more accurate data, we have found the national return to fall short of the truth.

According to the census, there were, in 1840, within the state of Massachusetts, only six hundred and twenty-seven lunatics and idiots, of all colours, who were supported at the public cost. But the abstract of the returns of the overseers of the poor to the secretary of state of Massachusetts for 1840, show that there were eight hundred and eighty-seven pauper lunatics and idiots within that commonwealth. In this disagreement of these two reports, there can be no question as to which we must yield our faith. The overseers, whose testimony is the sole foundation of the statements of the pauper abstract, are residents in the towns and cities with the poor lunatics, whom they report, and have the entire charge of their maintenance. Their registers must contain the names of all the insane paupers, and no more; and their returns to the secretary being the copies of these registers, must necessarily be accurate. There is no conjecture, there can be no mistake in this matter. On the other hand, the marshals, in taking the census, must obtain their information at second hand, from the reports of others; and as insanity is by many considered as a disreputable disorder, it is often concealed, and still more frequently is it reported sparingly to a stranger and a public officer, whose purpose is to make it a matter of public record. In judging of the issue of credibility between these two documents, we must admit the evidence of the pauper abstract, and reject that of the census.

This error of deficiency is not confined to Massachusetts. The superintendents of the poor of the state of New York report one thousand and fifty-eight pauper lunatics within that state, while the census marshals discovered and reported only seven hundred and thirty-nine among the same people.

The legislature of New Jersey appointed a committee, "to ascertain, as accurately as practicable, the number, ages, sex, and condition of lunatics in this state." This committee examined most of the counties accurately, and partially investigated the remainder, and made their report to the government in 1840. The ascertained number of lunatics and idiots, in the districts examined, was six hundred and eleven. They computed that there were ninety in the other portions of the state. This will make seven hundred and one for the whole state. The census reports only four hundred and forty-two, within the same territory.

A few years ago the Medical Society of Connecticut ascertained and published the number of lunatics and idiots within that state, more than twice as large as that reported in the census of 1840.

A similar examination revealed in Eastern Pennsylvania many more lunatics and idiots than the United States marshals are reported to have discovered.

Dr. Stribbling, of the Western Lunatic Asylum of Virginia, states that more lunatics were known to exist in several counties in that state, than the census reports.

We have no means of ascertaining how far the census falls short of the truth in its report upon the insanity among the whites in other states. But reasoning from analogy, we presume it is no more accurate there than here. The records and the means of information are not more abundant at the South and West than they are at the North and the East; and if the marshals could ferret out only three-fourths of the lunacy among the paupers of Massachusetts, whose condition is a matter of public record and notoriety, how much more difficult must they have found it, to obtain the entire numbers of the insane in other states and classes where insanity is not regarded so favourably, and therefore often concealed?

The census is equally inaccurate in its statements respecting the blind and the deaf and dumb, among the negroes at the north. We examined the details of that document in regard to these disorders among the coloured population in every town, city, and county of the free states, and found in many of these places, the record of cases of blindness and deafness and dumbness without subjects. These disorders exist there in a state of abstraction, and, fortunately for humanity, where they are said to be present, there are no people to suffer from them. But in others the entire coloured population are overwhelmed with these calamities, and now and then they are all afflicted, not with one disease only, but with both blindness and insanity.

DEAF AND DUMB AND BLIND, AMONG THE COLOURED POPULATION.

TOWNS.	Population	Blind.	Deaf and Dumb	TOWNS.	Population.	Blind.	Deaf and Dumb.
MAINE.							
Lymington,	1	2		Hebron,	0	0	1
Scarboro,	0	1		Hope,	1	0	1
Raymond,	1	1		Calais,	0	1	1
Orono,	1		1	Anson,	3	0	2
NEW HAMPSHIRE.							
Danville,	0		1	New Hampton,	0		1
Lee,	0		1	Meredith,	8	1	5
MASSACHUSETTS.							
Carver,	1		1	Milford,	5		4
Leverett,	0	1					
VERMONT.							
Fairfax,	0		1	Hartland,	0	1	
Rupert,	0	1					

NEW YORK.

TOWNS.	Population.	Blind.	Deaf and Dumb.	TOWNS.	Population.	Blind.	Deaf and Dumb.
Harmony,	0	2		Schroon,	0		1
Poland,	0	2		Westville,	0	1	
Mina,	6	1		Rutland,	0		2
Preston,	4		4	Ellisburgh,	0		1
Pharsalia,	1		1	Harrisburgh,	0	1	
Colden,	0	1		Parishville,	0	1	
Pike,	2	2		Stockholm,	0		1
Dryden,*	2	2		Providence,*	3		2

PENNSYLVANIA.

Reading,	0		1	Shamokin,	0	1	
Colebrookdale,	0	1		Mifflinburgh,	0		2
Haycock,	0	1		Lebœuf,	0	1	2
Ross,	0	1		Elkland,	0		
Franconia,	0		1	Farmington,	0	1	1

OHIO.

Marion,	0	1		Canaan,	0	1	
Chatfield,	0		1	Brunswick,	1		1
Sycamore,	0		1	Butler,	0	1	
Bricksville,†	1	1		Salt Creek,	0		1
Falls,	1		2	Washington, Pickaway Co.	0	1	
Liberty,†	0	1		Jefferson,† Richland Co.	0	1	
York,	0		1				
Reed,	0	1					
Unity,	0	1					
Jefferson, Madison Co.	0	1					

INDIANA.

Clifty,				Madison Co.‡	6		3
Bartholomew Co.	0	2		Wayne,	0	1	3
Kosciusko Co.	0	1		Floyd,	0	1	
Madison,	0		3	Sugar Creek,	0	1	
Scott,	0		1	Cotton,	0	3	

MICHIGAN.

Porter,	0	1		Howel,	0	1	

ILLINOIS.

Boone,	0		1	Township No. 46 Winnebago Co.	0		1
Scott,	4		1§				
Spring Creek,	0		1				

IOWA.

Jones,	0		3	Linn,	0	2	1

* These towns are each reported to have two coloured insane persons.

† Bricksville, Liberty, and Jefferson, according to the census, have each one coloured lunatic, in addition to their blind.

‡ Madison county, according to the census, has one coloured lunatic.

§ According to the census, Scott has four coloured lunatics beside the blind.

We have been thus minute in our specifications of the errors of the "sixth census," in order to carry conviction to our readers in every state, and to show them, by instances within their own knowledge, how and wherein its misstatements are made, and whence the grossly erroneous inferences have been drawn in regard to the liability of the free negroes to insanity, and to loss of sight, of hearing, and of speech. So far as the census testifies in this matter, this extreme liability is confined to the free blacks of the north. No inquiry was made, and no evidence is given as to the health of the mind and the senses of the free blacks at the south. It certainly would be an interesting question to determine, whether the free or the slave blacks, living side by side in the warmer climate, with no difference of circumstances except those of bondage and freedom with their respective consequences, were the more liable to derangement or loss of their faculties, of reason, sight, and hearing. We regret that the marshals were not directed, in their inquiries relative to health, to distinguish between the slave and the free negro at the south. Then, if the printed record of their report had not been unfaithful, like that which purports to come from the north, we should have had better data than we now have, for judging of the influence of self-direction and self-support, upon the sanity of the coloured race.*

Here is proof enough to force upon us the lamentable conclusion, that the "sixth census" has contributed nothing to the statistical nosology of the free blacks, and furnished us with no data whereon we may build any theory respecting the liability of humanity, in its different phases and in various outward circumstances, to loss of reason or of the senses. We confess, we are disappointed, we are mortified; nor are we alone in this feeling; our government had directed, that seventeen millions of people of various races and conditions, should be counted and their precise amount of derangement ascertained. Scientific men and philanthropists looked for the results of this investigation with confident hope; for henceforward the statistics of insanity, of deafness, and of blindness, were to be no more a mere matter of conjec-

* The laws of some of the southern states, and, we believe, of all, compel every slave-owner to maintain all his slaves in sickness and in old age. Of course, then, their masters must support them in their insanity and idiocy. None of them can come to the public treasury for support. On the other hand, the free negroes are generally, perhaps almost universally, poor. They are mostly thriftless and improvident. "Most of them spend their all for drink. Every effort to induce industry and care is abortive."† They seldom earn more than sufficient for the day's necessities or uses. They rarely accumulate property enough to maintain themselves in sickness, still less through the protracted helplessness of insanity. Most, if not all the free coloured lunatics must then be thrown upon charity or upon the public for support. If we are wrong in these statements, we beg to be corrected by some one who is acquainted with the laws respecting the maintenance of slaves, and with the domestic and pecuniary condition of the free negroes of the southern states. But if we are correct in our opinions, we shall be justified in assuming all the coloured lunatics who are supported at the public charge, and no

† Southern Literary Messenger, from Rev. Mr. Thornton.

ture, but of positive and extensive demonstration. In due time the document came forth, under the sanction of Congress, and "corrected at the Department of State." Such a document as we have described, heavy with its errors and its misstatements, instead of being a messenger of truth to the world, to enlighten its knowledge and guide its opinions; it is, in respect to human ailment—a bearer of falsehood to confuse and mislead. So far from being an aid to the progress of medical science, as it was the intention of government in ordering these inquiries, it has thrown a stumbling-block in its way, which it will require years to remove.

Where these errors originated, whether with the thousand marshals who counted the people in all the districts of the nation, or with the clerks in the State Department, who analyzed and reduced their returns to tables as now published, we have no means of judging. But so far as they were made at Washington, the case is not without remedy. The original returns may be re-examined, and a new and more accurate set of tables of the numbers of the insane, the deaf, and the blind, may be prepared. We commend this matter to the attention of the next Congress. We hope they will cause all the original papers respecting the sixth census to be revised, and all the errors which were made in copying them corrected, and a new and satisfactory edition sent forth, so that the correction of the mistakes and the refutation of the errors may follow them as early and as widely as possible. This is due to the honour of our country, to medical science, and to truth.

others, as belonging to the class of the free; and all coloured lunatics who are supported at private charge, and no others, as being slaves.

Upon these principles we have prepared an analysis of the cases of insanity among the free and slave blacks of the southern states, as in the following table.

State or Territory.	Slaves.	Insane at private charge.	One in	Free coloured population.	Insane at public charge.	One in
Dist. Columbia,	4,694	4	1173	8,361	3	2787
Florida,	25,717	12	2146	817	0	
Arkansas,	19,935	13	1533	465	8	58
Missouri,	58,240	50	1164	1,574	18	87
Kentucky,	182,258	132	1380	7,317	48	152
Tennessee,	183,059	124	1476	5,524	28	198
Mississippi,	195,211	66	2957	1,366	16	85
Louisiana,	168,452	38	7657	25,502	7	3643
Alabama,	253,532	100	2532	2,039	25	81
Georgia,	280,944	108	2601	2,753	26	105
South Carolina,	327,038	121	2702	8,276	16	517
North Carolina,	295,817	192	1280	22,732	29	7839
Virginia,	448,987	327	1372	49,842	54	923
Maryland,	89,495	99	904	62,020	42	1576
Delaware,	2,605	21	124	16,919	7	2417
Slave states.	2,485,984	1407	1766	215,507	427	659

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